

BEFORE THE  
MISSOURI ETHICS COMMISSION

**Filed**  
**JUN 02 2010**  
Missouri Ethics  
Commission

MISSOURI ETHICS COMMISSION

Petitioner,

v.

NORTH KANSAS CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Respondent.

No. 09E221, 09E238  
and 09E253

**CONSENT ORDER**

The parties having filed a Joint Stipulation of Facts, Waiver of Hearings before the Missouri Ethics Commission, and Consent Order with Proposed Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law ("Joint Stipulation") with the Missouri Ethics Commission in this matter, the Missouri Ethics Commission hereby accepts as true the facts stipulated and finds that the Respondent North Kansas City School District violated §115.646, RSMo and North Kansas City School District, Section DCB: Political Campaigns and North Kansas City School District, Section BBBB: School Board Ballot Issues as stated in the Joint Stipulation.

The Commission directs that all terms and orders of the Joint Stipulation be adopted herein and implemented.

- a. Respondent agrees that it will comply with all relevant sections of Chapter 115.646, RSMo, and violated North Kansas City School District, Section DCB: Political Campaigns and North Kansas City School District, Section BBBB: School Board Ballot Issues.

b. It is the order of the Missouri Ethics Commission that a letter of reprimand be issued to the North Kansas City School District pursuant to §105.961.4(4), RSMo.

SO ORDERED this 1 day of June 2010.

By: 

Jim Wright, Chairman

MISSOURI ETHICS COMMISSION  
3411 A Knipp Drive  
P.O. Box 1370  
Jefferson City, MO 65102-1254

**V.**

Respondent.

**JOINT STIPULATION OF FACTS, WAIVER OF HEARINGS BEFORE  
THE MISSOURI ETHICS COMMISSION, AND CONSENT ORDER  
WITH JOINT PROPOSED FINDINGS OF FACT AND CONCLUSIONS  
OF LAW**

The undersigned Respondent, the North Kansas City School District, acknowledges that it has received and reviewed a copy of the Complaint filed by the Petitioner in this case, and the parties submit to the jurisdiction of the Missouri Ethics Commission.

1

Respondent's own behalf at the hearing; and the right to a decision upon the record of the hearing. Being aware of these rights provided to the Respondent by operation of law, the undersigned Respondent knowingly and voluntarily waives each and every one of these rights and freely enter into this Joint Stipulation of Facts, Waiver of Hearings before the Missouri Ethics Commission, and Consent order with Joint Proposed Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, and agree to abide by the terms of this document.

**I.**

Based upon the foregoing, the Petitioner and the undersigned Respondent jointly stipulate to the following and request that the Missouri Ethics Commission adopt as its own the Joint Proposed Findings of Fact and the Joint Proposed Conclusions of Law, as follows:

**JOINT FINDINGS OF FACT**

1. The Missouri Ethics Commission ("the Commission") is an agency of the State of Missouri established pursuant to § 105.955, RSMo, in part for the purpose of enforcing the provisions of Chapter 130, RSMo.
2. The North Kansas City School District is a political subdivision of the State of Missouri.
3. Pursuant to § 105.957.1, RSMo, the Missouri Ethics Commission may receive complaints and investigate violations of the provisions of any state law, order, ordinance, or resolution of any political subdivision of the State of Missouri relating to the conduct of officials or employees of the political subdivision.
4. The North Kansas City School District is a seven- director district under

§160.021 and §160.031, RSMo and qualifies as a political subdivision of the State of Missouri under §105.450 (8), RSMo

5. For the April 7, 2009 election, there were eleven candidates on the ballot for the North Kansas City School Board.

6. For the April 7, 2009, there were three positions for directors on the ballot for three year terms for the seven member School Board.

7. Four of the candidates were Spencer Fields, Richard Gist, Chace Ramey, and Melissa Roberts. Spencer Fields and Chace Ramey were existing directors of the North Kansas City School Board.

8. On April 3, 2009, the Superintendent at that time, the Executive Director of Community Relations and the District Communications Director agreed to post an "endorsements" link for candidates for the North Kansas City School Board to the home page of the North Kansas City School District official website.

9. On April 3, 2009, the Webmaster/Communication Specialist posted the content on the home page of the North Kansas City School District official website. The section stated as follows:

REMEMBER TO GO TO THE POLLS APRIL 7 for the General Municipal Election, featuring 11 school board candidates vying for three seats on the NKCS Board of Education.

Informative Links:

Clay County Election Board – [Click here!](#)

Ballot Language – [Click here!](#)

Candidate Profiles:

[District Questionnaires](#)

[Kansas City Star](#)

[Sun Tribune](#)

Endorsements:

[Citizens for Quality Education](#)

[NKC-NEA \(MNEA\)](#)

[Sun Tribune](#)

North Kansas City National Education Association

10. The North Kansas City National Education Association published Volume 26, Issue 7 of "The Advocate" in March 2009, the Newsletter of the North Kansas City Education Association. Page two of the publication contained a section called "School Board Endorsements" The section included a recommendation for candidates for the Board in the April 7, 2009 election. The four page publication is attached and incorporated as Exhibit A.

11. On or about April 3, 2009, district staff scanned the "The Advocate" and created a one page document which included the Advocate header and School Board Endorsement section on the official school district homepage. The one page document is attached and incorporated as Exhibit B.

Citizens for Quality Education

12. Citizens for Quality Education was a committee of eleven individuals. The committee sent an email survey to candidates, interviewed candidates and issued a press release with endorsements for three candidates for the North Kansas City School District for the April 2009 election. The Citizens for Quality Education issued a "press release" by sending an email to Kansas City Star , the Sun Tribune and the three candidates whom the endorsed. Three candidates were endorsed. The press release was not published by the Kansas City Star and the Sun Tribune. The press release is attached and incorporated as Exhibit C.

13. On April 3, 2009, the Executive Director of Community Relations requested from the "Media Release" from a member of the Citizens for Quality

Education on Citizens Committee Letterhead. The request stated, "We would like to post the formal endorsements on our Web site – Receiving lots of calls."

14. The attachment was received by the Executive Director of Community Relations with the following message: "Here it is. Don't know why neither of the newspapers printed it."

15. The press release was included on the link to the Citizens for Quality Education link to the endorsement section of the official school district website.

#### Sun Tribune

16. The Sun Tribune is a newspaper of weekly publication in the greater Kansas City area including the area which includes the North Kansas City School District. On March 25, 2009, the Sun Tribune included an "Opinion-Editorial." The editorial included an endorsement of three candidates for the North Kansas City School District. The editorial is attached and incorporated as Exhibit D.

17. The endorsement section of the North Kansas City School District official website was removed by the Webmaster/Communications Specialist on the afternoon of Tuesday April 7, 2009, the date of the election.

18. On July 9, 2009 and September 8, 2009, the Commission received three complaints.

#### JOINT CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. §115.646, RSMo provides:

No contribution or expenditure of public funds shall be made directly by any officer, employee or agent of any political subdivision to advocate, support, or oppose any ballot measure or candidate for public office. This section shall not be construed to prohibit any public official of a political subdivision from making public appearances or from issuing press releases concerning any such ballot measure.

2. Public funds were expended when links to external websites that included endorsements of school board candidates were placed on the North Kansas City Schools official website maintained by the North Kansas City School District by school district personnel as referenced in paragraph 9 of this complaint.

3. There is probable cause to determine that Respondent North Kansas City School District violated §115.646, RSMo when public district funds were directly expended to advocate or support candidates for School Board on the April 9, 2009 election.

4. According to §171.011, RSMo:

The school board of each school district in the state may make all needful rules and regulations for the organization, grading and government in the school district. The rules shall take effect when a copy of the rules, duly signed by order of the board, is deposited with the district clerk. The district clerk shall transmit forthwith a copy of the rules to the teachers employed in the schools. The rules may be amended or repealed in like manner.

5. North Kansas City School District, Section DCB: Political Campaigns, adopted February 11, 2003, provides:

No contribution or expenditure of district funds shall be made directly by any Board member, employee or agent of the district to advocate, support or oppose any ballot measure or candidate for public office. This does not prevent Board members or administrators from making public appearances or issuing press releases concerning any such ballot measures.

Reasonable expenditures may be made solely for the purpose of providing patrons of the district with objective information regarding ballot measures in order to inform voters concerning issues that directly affect the district.



6. North Kansas City School District, Section BBBB: School Board Ballot Issues, adopted February 11, 2003, provides, in pertinent part:

**Restriction on Use of Funds**

In accordance with Board policy and law, no contribution or expenditure of public funds will be made directly by any Board member, employee or agent of the district to advocate, support or oppose any ballot measure or candidate for public office.

7. There is probable cause to determine that North Kansas City Schools has violated North Kansas City School District, Section DCB: Political Campaigns and North Kansas City School District, Section BBBB: School Board Ballot Issues when public district funds were expended directly to advocate or support candidates on the April 9, 2009 election.

**II.**

Based on the foregoing, the parties hereto mutually agree and stipulate that the following shall constitute the order entered by the Missouri Ethics Commission in this matter. This order will be effective immediately upon the issuance of the Consent Order of the Missouri Ethics Commission without further action by any party:

1. The parties to this Joint Stipulation understand that the Petitioner will maintain this Joint Stipulation as an open and public record of the Missouri Ethics Commission.
2. The Commission shall issue its Consent Order, attached as Exhibit B in the form attached hereto which is a final action of the Commission in the complaints 09E221, 09E238 and 09E253;

a. Respondent agrees that it will comply with all relevant sections of Chapter 115.646, RSMo, and violated North Kansas City School District, Section DCB: Political Campaigns and North Kansas City School District, Section BBBB: School Board Ballot Issues.

b. It is the order of the Missouri Ethics Commission that a letter of reprimand be issued to the North Kansas City School District pursuant to §105.961.4(4), RSMo.

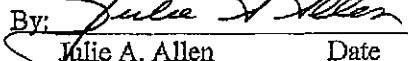
3. The parties consent to the entry of record and approval of this Joint Stipulation and to the termination of any further proceedings before the Commission based upon the Complaint filed by the Petitioner in the above-styled action.

4. Respondent, together with its heirs and assigns, and his attorney, do hereby waive, release, acquit and forever discharge the Missouri Ethics Commission and its attorney of or from any liability, claim, actions, causes of action, fees, costs and expenses, and compensation, including, but not limited to, a claim for attorney's fees whatsoever which respondent and their attorneys now have or which they may hereafter have, which is based upon or arises out of the above-styled case.

RESPONDENT

By:  5/11/10  
North Kansas City School District Date

PETITIONER

By:   
Julie A. Allen Date  
Executive Director

By:



5/25/10

Date

Duane Martin

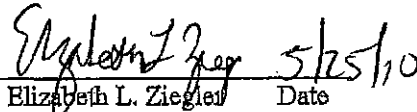
Attorney, North Kansas City School District

Missouri Bar No. 99204

Gunn, Martin, Mundorf  
9237 Ward Parkway, Suite 240  
Kansas City, MO 64114  
816-333-1700 Telephone  
816-886-3860 Facsimile

Attorney for Respondent

By:



Date

Elizabeth L. Ziegler

General Counsel

Missouri Ethics Commission

Missouri Bar No. 35493

3411-A Knipp Drive  
Jefferson City, MO 65102  
Telephone: (573) 751-2020  
Telefax: (573) 526-4506

Attorney for Petitioner

## Myth Busters

The economic recession we are currently experiencing in our country is beginning to have an impact on us all.



by Denise Ash  
President  
NKC/NEA



Some of our family members and friends have lost their jobs. Many others have lost their homes and have had to make extreme sacrifices. It is no wonder that rumors have started to fly around the district about our jobs. Unfortunately, the rumors have resulted in misinformation and in some cases needless worrying.

How many of the following rumors have you heard?

1. We are not getting a raise next year. The salary schedule is frozen. No step and lane movements will be allowed.

### The Truth:

Salary negotiations have just recently begun. The members of CTTN are following the same process that has been followed every year since the formation of the collaborative process. A CTTN sub-committee met on Feb. 18<sup>th</sup> to begin the salary/benefits negotiations. Several meetings will follow with lengthy discussions about the amount of money available for salaries and benefits. Unfortunately, the amount of money that the district receives is from a variety of sources and is not always predictable. When an amount is determined, the money is then allocated to the salary schedule, benefits, extra duty pay, etc. A consensus must be reached at CTTN before the agreement can be taken to the Board of Education. Finally, contracts will be issued when the

Board of Education votes to approve the salary and benefits package.

2. I won't know if I have a job until I get a contract.

### The Truth:

Tenured Teachers: Your contract is ongoing. Due process must be followed if there is concern about your continuing with your position in the district. Also, you have until June 1<sup>st</sup> to resign even if you have already signed a contract. If you wish to resign after June 1<sup>st</sup> you must request a release from your contract.

Probationary Teachers: If you have *not* been notified in writing on or before April 15<sup>th</sup> that you will not be receiving a contract for next year, you are deemed to be reemployed for the next school year. You must receive your contract by May 15<sup>th</sup> and return it signed within 15 days. Otherwise, it is considered a rejection of the offer. Remember: Contracts are not issued until CTTN reaches a consensus and the Board of Education votes to approve the agreement.

3. Teaching positions are being eliminated.

### The Truth:

As a result of the Effectiveness and Efficiency Study a great deal of thought is being put into the use of teachers throughout the district. There are no plans to lay off teachers or eliminate positions that directly affect

students and impact instruction. However, some teachers will be administratively transferred. In order to open Bell Prairie and to fully staff Staley there may be more movement than usual.

4. Class sizes are expected to go up next year.

### The Truth:

It is a priority of NKC-NEA and the administration to alleviate the large class sizes throughout the district. Efforts are being made to lower class size and make the class sizes more equitable next year.

5. Planning time will be less for teachers at all levels next year.

### The Truth:

Planning time is negotiated at CTTN and is an ongoing topic of discussion. Elementary planning time is discussed every year and efforts are made to add and preserve planning time. At the middle school level a goal is to make sure that core and encore teachers have comparable planning time. Requiring high school teachers to teach 6.5 classes a day instead of 6 has not been on the agenda. However, since the concern has been raised we will bring it up for discussion at the next meeting. Protected plan time

*continued on page 4*

## Is Multitasking Affecting Our Students?

by Susan Thompson  
NKC-NEA 2<sup>nd</sup> vice-president

Peek behind the bedroom doors of children and teens who are supposedly doing homework, and you may find they're doing that and

much more – text messaging friends, surfing the Internet and listening to iPods.

In fact, according to a 2006 Kaiser Family Foundation study,

*continued on page 2*

continued on from page 1

**Multitasking may seem modern and efficient, but research suggests that it slows children's productivity, changes the way they learn and may even render social relationships more superficial.**

In addition, text messaging during class isn't just a high-tech version of passing notes. Because of its demands on attention, multitasking also may impair young people's ability to learn. Students with one eye on a teacher and one on a BlackBerry may be more likely to learn rote answers instead of developing a true understanding, says Russell Poldrack, PhD, neuroscience professor at UCLA. He says, "The entire culture is starting to look like what you see in attention deficit disorder, where there's a difficulty in focusing and distractibility."

These are things that make you say  
 hoooooooooooo.

## Martin Luther King Poster Contest Winners

NKC-NEA Teaching &amp; Learning chair



We want to thank all the teachers and students who participated in the Martin Luther King Poster/Essay Contest this year.

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## School Board Endorsements

by Denice Ash  
NKC-NEA president

We have provided a written questionnaire to the candidates and have conducted personal interviews before a panel of association members. Using information from the questionnaires and interviews, the panel reached consensus and decided which candidates were the most supportive advocates for education employees.

The NKC-NEA recommends the following candidates for the April 7, 2009, School Board election: Spencer Fields, Chace Ramey, and Melissa Roberts.

## Teaching Tips

### True or False

The following activity can be used to review content specific facts, number combinations, rhyming and non-rhyming words. It provides activity that will help student attention and allows the teacher to check for student understanding. Begin by giving the students the following directions:

- Sit sideways in your chair so that you can stand up easily and quickly without bumping anyone else.
- You are going to stand up, sit down, or freeze every time I say something.
- If I say something that is true, like, "I am your teacher", and you are sitting as you are now, you must stand up quickly. True statements require you to move or change positions.
- If next I say something that is false, like, "I am a car", you must freeze. In other words, stay standing; don't move at all. False statements require you to freeze.
- Then, if I say, "You are students"--that's true--you move again and sit back down.
- So, you move every time I say something true. If I say something not true, you freeze where you are.

## For your information .....

### Spring Membership Bargain

by Larry Schmitz  
NKC-NEA Membership chair

Spring is a great time to increase our membership because we can offer new members the bargain of up to seven months of free membership. This is an opportunity for you to help our membership increase by talking to prospective members about joining NKC-NEA. Personal contact is often the most effective way to encourage someone to become a member.

Many times, when district employees are asked why they haven't joined NKC-NEA, they reply: "No one ever asked me". Every NKC-NEA member can help increase our local membership numbers by asking the people with whom they work to join the Association.

You may wonder why you should care about NKC-NEA's membership numbers.

As the majority organization in our district, NKC-NEA works through the CTTN process to negotiate our salaries, benefits, and other issues affecting our working conditions. Larger membership numbers increase our voice in dealing with district administration. Salaries in the St. Louis area are much higher than in the Kansas City area. It is no coincidence that NEA membership percentages are much higher there. More members mean higher salaries. It is as simple as that.

I would ask that you speak to each of your potential members encouraging them to take advantage of the bargain prices during the spring membership drive. Those who join at the beginning of April will receive seven months of free membership. Their dues will not be withheld until the end of October.

However, as soon as a membership form is received in the NKC-NEA office, most benefits will become effective. There are a few benefits, such as the Unified Legal Services program, that will not become effective until payment of the first monthly dues.

If you have teachers or ESP in your building who are prospective members, please discuss with them the personal and professional value of joining NKC-NEA. Spring membership materials will be sent to the buildings at the end of March. Your faculty rep or building recruiter can supply the forms people will need to join the Association.

### Are You Retiring?

NKC-NEA members who plan to retire at the end of this school year are being asked to notify the NKC-NEA office that you are taking the "big step".

The office phone number is 459-7330, or you can reach us via email at [nkneea@kcnet.com](mailto:nkneea@kcnet.com). You may also contact Denise Ash at New Mark.

Please help us celebrate this big occasion with you by informing us about your retirement as soon as possible.



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### March - April

- March 11, 5:00 p.m., NKC-NEA Elections, ballots returned to NKC-NEA office
- March 16 - 20, NKCS D Spring Break
- March 24, 4:30 p.m., NKC-NEA Executive Committee, NKC-NEA office
- March 27, 3:00 p.m., NKC-NEA TGIF, Tommy's Restaurant on Antioch Road
- April 6 - 17, NKCS D MAP Testing Window
- April 7, NKCS D School Board Election. Remember to VOTE!
- April 7, 4:30 p.m., NKC-NEA Executive Committee, NKC-NEA office
- April 14, 4:30 p.m., NKC-NEA Faculty Rep meeting, Antioch Middle School
- April 14, 7:00 p.m., NKCS D School Board, Central Office
- April 17 - 19, MNEA Spring RA, Tan-Tar-A
- April 21, 4:30 p.m., NKC-NEA Executive Committee, NKC-NEA office

### Myth Busters

at all levels is an ongoing topic.

6. Our health insurance may change and the rates will be much higher.

#### The Truth:

The Benefits Committee has met three times this year and is now ready to make a recommendation to the Board of Education. Blue Cross Blue Shield Medical is the recommended provider. Initially, the increase proposed by BCBS was 8.6%. Based on Hays' review of the underwriting calculation and subsequent negotiations, this was reduced to a 5% increase guaranteed for 1 year. Delta Dental proposed a 9.1% increase initially, but this was reduced to 7.5% with the rates guaranteed for 2 years.

7. The financial condition of the district is unstable.

#### The Truth:

We have been fortunate to have a very fiscally conscious administration and school board. Our fund balance is currently over 18%. Anticipation of the current economic recession has resulted in responsible decision making in all areas. Rest assured, our leadership is interested in preserving the quality of education we all expect.

I hope this communication has helped to clarify some of the "myths" that you may have heard recently. Focusing on facts is always important, but during difficult times when people are feeling uncertain about the future it is especially important. Please contact NKC-NEA leadership or any of the CTTN members when you have a question or concern. Fires are easier to put out when they are small.

arship program for graduating high school seniors who intend to enroll in college to pursue a degree in education and a career in teaching.

We will select three recipients from the district's high schools and an additional scholarship will be awarded to a member's child. The member's child does not have to attend a district high school to be eligible for the award.

Scholarship applications are available in the counselor's office at each of the high schools.

If your child is a graduating senior planning to pursue a degree in education and attends a high school outside the district, please email Elaine Nick at Gracemor to obtain an application.

Applications must be returned to Elaine or to the NKC-NEA office before April 15<sup>th</sup> in order to be considered for the awards.

by Elaine Nick

NKC-NEA Teaching & Learning chair

### Check the calendar for upcoming events

THE ADVOCATE IS PUBLISHED BY THE NORTH KANSAS CITY-NATIONAL EDUCATOR ASSOCIATION  
6802 N. ANTIOCH RD., SUITE 3,  
GLADSTONE, MO 64119 (816-459-7338)  
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COORDINATOR - SUSAN THOMPSON  
DESIGN-LAYOUT EDITOR - HARRY KENNEDY

### NKC-NEA Scholarships

This is a reminder about our NKC-NEA Education School-

#### TGIF Tommy's March 27th

Join fellow NKC-NEA members on March 27 at Tommy's. Bring a friend or prospective member. We will begin at 3:00 and you may stay as long as you want.



# Advocate

March 2009

Volume 26 Issue 7

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE NORTH KANSAS CITY EDUCATION ASSOCIATION



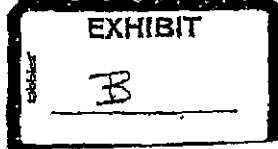
## School Board Endorsements

by Denise Ash  
NKEA/NREA President

This year the North Kansas City School District is electing three members to the Board of Education. The NKEA takes a great interest in these elections and is proactive in seeking information regarding potential issues.

We have provided a written questionnaire to the candidates and have conducted personal interviews before a panel of association members. Using information from the questionnaires and interviews, the panel reached consensus and decided which candidates were the most supportive advocates for education employees.

The NKEA/NREA recommends the following candidates for the April 7, 2009 School Board elections: **Spencer Fields, Chase Kamey, and Melissa Roberts.**





Denice Ash  
Thelma Crawford  
Jennifer Fitzpatrick  
Tammy Henderson  
Timothy Kristl  
David Mecklenburg  
Dale Orr  
Jim Rice  
Dwight Sampson  
Teresa Serrano  
Bill Shephard

## **CITIZENS FOR QUALITY EDUCATION**

515 NW 43rd Terrace  
Kansas City, MO 64116  
[tkristl100@aol.com](mailto:tkristl100@aol.com)

Press Release

For Immediate Release

For information contact: Tim Kristl (816) 472-7788 or  
Tammy Henderson (816) 459-4211

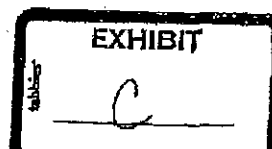
March 11, 2009


The Citizens for Quality Education is a group committed to insuring that every student attending schools in the North Kansas City School District receives the best possible quality education. An important factor in the ability to receive that education is that the best qualified candidates are elected to the school board. To that end the Citizens for Quality Education distributed questionnaires and conducted candidate interviews on March 10 and 11, 2009 at the offices of the Northland Regional Chamber of Commerce. The public and the media were invited to the interviews.

The committee, co-chaired by Tim Kristl, a local attorney, and Tammy Henderson, a former school board member, is composed of a geographically and socially diverse group of citizens composed of parents, teachers, representatives from labor, businesses and residents who do not have children in the school district. The goal of the questionnaires and the interviews was to determine the candidates' abilities to serve as a school board member, their knowledge base and interests, and their general understanding of the complexities and comprehensive nature of public education, especially during difficult economic times.

All of the candidates were invited to participate in the interviews and complete the questionnaire. Based on extensive evaluation of the questionnaires and the interviews, the Citizens for Quality Education board has determined that the following candidates are the most qualified candidates to serve as members of the school board and hereby endorses and recommends these candidates for the April 7 election:

Spencer Fields  
Chace Ramey  
Melissa Roberts





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Thursday, August 14th, 2008

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## Fields, Ramey, Gist are best choices for school board

Opinion - Editorials

WRITTEN BY SUN TRIBUNE

Wednesday, 25 MARCH 2008 18:14

Participation is the key to success in any democracy, and that's why we're pleased with the large field of 11 candidates for three open spots on the North Kansas City Schools Board of Education in the Tuesday, April 7, election.

The flip side of having so many choices is that it puts even more burden on voters to pay attention and make sure they're picking the right people to oversee the Northland's largest public school district. This year, the decision is tougher because many of the candidates are well-qualified and would likely make excellent school board members.

That said, we have decided to endorse candidates Spencer Fields, Chace Ramey and Richard Gist. Together, they represent the best qualities needed to help move the school district into a future clouded by economic, academic and social challenges.

Fields and Ramey are both incumbents and have proven to be insightful policy-makers and excellent representatives of the school district's patrons.

Their expertise was well demonstrated during a candidate forum hosted by the PTA on March 12. They've learned how to manage the big picture while telling the educational professionals to do their jobs. They've also shown a willingness to question administrators and raise alternative perspectives and possible solutions.

Gist has already built a good reputation in the school district for his leadership of Parents of Academically Gifted Students. At the March 12 forum, he showed that his expertise extends beyond just gifted education to an impressive array of subjects. He seemed to be the most prepared of all the non-incumbent candidates and should be an excellent addition to the school board.

Hits: 677 Email This Bookmark Set as favorite

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77°F Wind: Calm

Today

High 84° Low 68°  
Clear to partly cloudy

Tomorrow

High 81° Low 74°  
Partly cloudy

Saturday

High 80° Low 74°  
Partly cloudy and breezy

Sunday

High 80° Low 77°  
Rain, then a shower

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### Reader Poll

Would you be upset if any Northland post offices were closed?

☐ Yes

☐ No

[Vote](#) [Results](#)

### Staff Blogs

- Final thoughts on Pr ... by Bill Kistler
- Zone Team's Improv ... by Jeff Gidom
- My fall faves by Megan O'Donnell
- Northland sports are ... by Bill Kistler
- Back to school style ... by Megan O'Donnell

EXHIBIT

tabbles

D